The Alberstadt-Reesman-Stearns Faculty Research Fund

The Alberstadt-Reesman-Stearns Fund is provided by a generous endowed gift to the department from its alumni. The gift was granted to the department in support of research and field studies for faculty and student members of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. EES faculty of all ranks and positions are eligible to apply for these funds.

Funding requests will be awarded on the following priorities, with the first two most weighted:

1) **Benefit.** Priority given to requests having the greatest scholarly and career benefits.
2) **Need.** Priority given to requests otherwise unfunded or without alternative resources.
3) **Prior Awards.** Priority may be given to faculty not having recently received an award.
4) **Engagement.** Priority may be given to requests that engage other members of the department, including any faculty, staff, post-docs, or students.

**Applying for Alberstadt-Reesman-Stearns Faculty Research Funds**

Activities eligible for funding will typically involve research, education, or related travel. Other scholarly activities may also be considered, such as short courses, workshops, or hosting conferences at Vanderbilt. Support for normal conference travel will not be considered through this fund.

Interested faculty should contact the chair to briefly discuss their planned request. After the initial discussion, a 1-2 page proposal should be completed as described below. The formal request and budget should then be submitted to the chair for review. To maximize flexibility, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. However, requests are encouraged as early as possible (up to a year in advance). Budgets may nominally range from $2000-$5000, although larger requests will be considered for high-impact activities.

**The proposal should include the following components:**

- A description of the proposed activity (2-3 paragraphs).
- A description of how the proposed activity fits within the faculty’s research agenda and/or career development (1 paragraph).
- A description of whether and how the proposed activity will lead to further engagement with other members of the EES community (1 paragraph).
- A proposed budget and statement of need -- i.e., what other sources are/not available. Cost-sharing is not required, but it may be encouraged for larger requests or when other sources are available, such as faculty funds, university awards, or organization grants.
- A brief timeline for the funding request and expenditures.
- The completed application should be emailed as a single pdf to the EES chair and copied to the EES program coordinator.